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Responsible Hiking During COVID-19

Carlsbad parks, trails and open space provide endless opportunities for recreational activities for everyone. With your help, we can all enjoy these special places safely. We encourage you to follow the San Diego County health order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. If you are sick or experiencing symptoms, please stay home. When planning a day out on the trails be sure to:

- **Know before you go.** City trails have modified hours of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Some facilities are not open, like some restrooms and visitor centers, so plan accordingly.
- **Keep your distance.** Recreate with only the people in your household. Give others plenty of room when on narrow trails where social distancing is challenging. Be prepared to use your face covering when you come within 6 feet of someone not in your household.
- **Keep on designated trail.** When you venture outside trail limits, you disturb native plants and animals and degrade the habitat so stay on marked trails.
- **Know your limits.** Bring plenty of water. Consider postponing challenging hikes while first responders continue to concentrate on responding to the pandemic.
- **Keep your dog on a leash.** Dogs must be restrained on a leash that is under 6 feet long. Please stay on trails and always pick up after your dog.
- **Keep calm.** Rattlesnakes are still out and about. If you encounter a rattlesnake on a trail, calmly back away and leave it alone. If bitten, remain calm and call 9-1-1.
- **Keep it with you.** If you brought it in, make sure to take it out with you. This includes masks. Trash pickup and restroom facilities will continue to be limited in many areas.



FEATURED TRAILS

Robertson Ranch Trails

LENGTH: 1.6 MILES

DIFFICULTY: EASY TO MODERATE

SURFACE: MIX OF PAVED AND UNPAVED;
GENTLE TO STEEP TERRAIN

The trails of Robertson Ranch are nestled between the neighboring communities of The Foothills and Robertson Ranch which border Agua Hedionda Creek. There are several trailheads you can take to access Robertson Ranch trails. The main parking for these trails is at Fire Station #3 on Trailblazer Way.

From Trailblazer Way you can access the Robertson Ranch trail east trailhead and can go north or south. When you head south, you'll find a gently rolling trail leading over a seasonal creek which provides a great opportunity for bird watching and supports nesting habitat and protective cover from predators. As you cross the creek, you'll notice a concrete berm architecture feature built into the landscape with culverts underneath. During a flood event water can run freely over the top without compromising the structure of the berm.

The vegetation in the open space of the creek area includes riparian scrub and marsh. Trees commonly found in this wetland community are willow and cottonwood and supports the overall ecological functions of the watershed. This watershed eventually connects to the Agua Hedionda Lagoon to the south and west, which supports unique avian fauna, flora and aquatic species specific to California coastal lagoons.

Going north from the Trailblazer trailhead on Robertson Ranch Trail east will lead to the trail junction. If you continue east along Robertson Ranch HOA Trail this will take you towards College Boulevard which leads through the hills and canyons of Calavera Hills open space with predominantly native coastal sage scrub flora. Take a rest in the shade of willows and cottonwoods as you hike through this beautiful valley.

If you go west at the trail junction you will encounter a second creek crossing and the trail will ascend through preserved open space, revealing magnificent views of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon. The trail meanders between cul-de-sacs of the residential neighborhoods and connects to Edinburgh Drive trailhead.

On the western end of Robertson Ranch community, you can access Robertson Ranch Trail West at the Glasgow Drive trailhead. It leads southwest towards Robertson Drive. This trail is an isolated trail and does not connect to the two other trails inside Robertson Ranch.



NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Established in 1994 and held annually on the fourth Saturday in September, National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort aimed at educating the public about the environment and natural resources to improve public lands for outdoor recreation. This year, National Public Lands Day falls on Sept. 26.

National Public Lands Day is sponsored by the National Environmental Education Foundation, which was chartered by Congress in 1990 to advance environmental knowledge. The national volunteer day began with just three sites and 700 volunteers, and last year approximately 175,000 volunteers worked at over 2,200 sites in every state.

In Carlsbad, hundreds of volunteers have participated in city sponsored events for National Public Lands Day as well as National Trails Day, Arbor Day and other activities that support stewardship for the environment and healthy outdoor activities.

While we won't be having an in-person volunteer event this year, there are still many other ways to participate in National Public Lands Day.

- Visit a park or trail with your household members
- Take part in cleaning up your neighborhood
- Have fun and enjoy the health benefits of being outdoors
- Share your favorite outdoor activity on social media channels with the hashtag #NPLD





Native Plant Feature

Coast monkeyflowers are named for their funny faces that look like grinning monkeys. You can find the coast monkeyflower (*Diplacus puniceus*) along some of our local trails, such as Lake Calavera and La Costa Glen as they flourish in chaparral and coastal sage scrub communities. Keep an eye out for this hummingbird and butterfly loving shrub that flowers most of the year.

Current Trail Captains

Arroyo Vista/ Villagio – OPEN
Batiquitos Lagoon Trail – Neal Works
Carlsbad Oaks North Business Park – Sue Irey
Coastal Rail Trail – Yovanni Maldonado
The Crossings/Veterans Park – Shane Hohnstein
El Fuerte/Bressi Ranch Trail – Patricia Linton
Harbor Drive – Craig Kirk
Hidden Valley Trail – Tia Lanzetta
Hosp Grove – Gary Nessim and John Rodenhausen
La Costa Glen – Ed and Tricia Cerda
La Costa Southern Preserve – April Frieda
La Costa Valley – Debbie Phipps
Lake Calavera – Diane Nygaard and Paige DeCino
Melrose 55-Fioli Circle/ East Ridgeline – Slader Buck
Old Rancho Santa Fe Road – Richard L'Heureux
The Ranch/Santa Fe Trail – Alvaro Villamizar
Rancho Carrillo – Ramesh Sirsi (East) Sally and Will Willis (West)
Ridgeline/La Costa Trail – Don Stapp
Robertson Ranch – George Cornell
Village H – North/ Hidden Canyon Park – Tim Campbell
Village H- South – Wanda Stiles and Gerald Rea

Are you someone who enjoys being out in the open space, giving back to your community and doesn't mind getting your hands dirty? If you are interested in becoming a trail volunteer, please call 760-434-4725.

Citywide Trails Program Mission Statement

"Provide a trails system that ensures the recreational and leisure needs of Carlsbad residents while supporting the protection and preservation of open space in accordance with the City of Carlsbad General Plan."



760-434-2826
www.carlsbadca.gov/trails